

Catalogue of national data collections – a one-stop shop for health and social care information in Ireland.

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Abstract

Background

Safe, reliable, healthcare depends on access to, and the use of, information that is accurate, valid, reliable, timely, relevant, legible and complete. HIQA has published its third revision of the Catalogue of national data collections providing an updated 'one-stop-shop' of all national health and social care data sources in Ireland.

Information within the Catalogue will help to inform decision-making, planning of services, policy- making and support high- quality research.

The main objective of the Catalogue is to:

- Provide an overview of national health and social care data collections and collated sources of health information.
- Inform and increase awareness among stakeholders on the existence of data collections, enabling them to readily access information about health and social care data collections in Ireland.

Methods

The managing organisations of all national data collections were requested by HIQA to complete a summary metadata template to update their information. The data was reviewed and validated by the data providers for completeness and accuracy. An online tool to access this information was also developed and is available on the HIQA website.

Results

120 data collections and collated sources of information are included in this Catalogue as follows:

- national data collections (n=75)
- data collections with regional coverage (n=9)
- national censuses (n=3)
- national surveys (n=10)
- national performance and activity reports (n=7)
- additional sources of health information (n=16)

Conclusion

This Catalogue is an important resource to ensure that all stakeholders, including the general public, patients and service users, clinicians, researchers, and healthcare providers can readily access information about health and social care data collections in Ireland; thus promoting the use of existing health information in order to drive improvements in the quality and safety of health and social care services, while assisting in identifying gaps or inconsistencies in health information.

Word Count: 300 words

Key terms: health and social care data collections, health information, catalogue, national data collections

Key sentence: HIQA has published a comprehensive repository of all national health and social care data collections in existence in Ireland in 2017.